

Date Created:	April 9, 2008
Sponsors:	Patterson, Constantine
Attachments:	None

1 ..Title

2 A MOTION adopting a policy framework for animal
3 services and establishing a process for the development of a
4 strategic plan, operational master plan, facilities master
5 plan, and business plan.

6
7 ..Body

8 WHEREAS, King County animal services include services provided by the
9 Seattle-King County department of public health, King County sheriff's office and the
10 animal care and control section of the records and licensing services division of the
11 department of executive services, and

12 WHEREAS, Seattle-King County department of public health provides zoonotic
13 and animal borne disease control, sanitary and health based enforcement and may inspect
14 animal housing for compliance with public health standards, and

15 WHEREAS, the King County sheriff's office provides animal and human safety
16 based enforcement and cruelty investigations for compliance with public safety
17 standards, and

18 WHEREAS, the animal care and control section of the records and licensing
19 services division of the department of executive services provides animal shelter, medical
20 care, nuisance control, notice of order based enforcement, pet licensing, licensing for
21 businesses and organizations that house animals, code compliance inspections and cruelty
22 investigations, and

23 WHEREAS, the King County code 11.04.011, states that the purpose of King
24 County animal care and control is to serve and maintain such levels of animal care as will
25 protect animal and human health and safety, and to the greatest degree practicable to
26 prevent injury to humans, property and cruelty to animal life, and

27 WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council adopted Ordinance 15801 to reduce
28 rates of euthanasia, redefine the roles and responsibilities of the animal care and control
29 citizen's advisory committee, and reduce access to animals by individuals convicted or
30 charged with animal cruelty, and

31 WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007, the council approved Motion 12521 relating to the
32 provision of services to animals and requesting that the executive transmit a report to
33 include recommendations to improve the humane care of animals and develop a model
34 animal services program, and

35 WHEREAS, Motion 12521 further requested that the executive work with the
36 animal care and control citizen's advisory committee to develop the report, and

37 WHEREAS, the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee submitted a
38 special report dated September 24, 2007, and

39 WHEREAS, on October 8, 2007 the council approved Motion 12600 accepting
40 the animal care and control citizen's advisory committee report and requesting that the
41 executive take immediate steps to determine the feasibility of the recommendations
42 identified in the report, in addition to exploring the business decision of discontinuing the
43 provision of animal sheltering services and declaring an urgent need for action to
44 implement the recommendations contained within the animal care and control citizen's
45 advisory committee report, and

WHEREAS, the executive submitted the King County Animal Care and Control 2008 Operation Plan dated November 2, 2007, and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2007 the council approved Ordinance 15975, the 2008 budget ordinance, establishing a proviso restricting funds to the records and licensing division pending the outcome of a preliminary evaluation of the leadership, human resources and structural capacity to become a model no-kill program, and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2008 the council received a preliminary evaluation of leadership, human resources and structural capacity to become a model no-kill program, and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for action to address problems identified with the animal services in King County, and

WHEREAS, the county is committed to reform animal services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. It is the intent of the county that the following vision, mission, guiding principles and goals for King County animal services be the foundation for the strategic planning efforts for animal services:

1. Vision: King County ensures humane treatment of animals and protects the health and safety of the public;
2. Mission: King County protects the public health from animal borne and zoonotic disease, keeps the public safe from animals and nuisances, prevents animal cruelty, reduces the number of homeless animals entering shelters, increases pet adoptions and seeks to eliminate euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals;

69 3. Guiding Principles:

- 70 a. The public has the right to be safe from animals and animal borne and
71 zoonotic disease and to avoid animal nuisances;
- 72 b. All animals shall be treated humanely;
- 73 c. Animal services shall be coordinated and integrated with other services
74 and programs as appropriate;
- 75 d. The county's animal services programs shall be accountable and
76 transparent to the public;
- 77 e. The quality of animal services shall be continuously improved; and
- 78 f. Animal services shall be provided in a fiscally responsible and sustainable
79 manner.

80 4. Goals:

- 81 a. Protect the public's health and safety from zoonotic and animal borne
82 disease through effective public health programs;
- 83 b. Ensure access to life saving programs including adoption, medical care,
84 socialization and behavioral modification;
- 85 c. Reduce the number of homeless pets through the provision of low-cost,
86 high-volume spay and neuter services, pet retention education and
87 participation in a feral cat trap neuter return and release program;
- 88 d. Achieve a euthanasia rate for healthy or treatable animals of fifteen percent
89 by the end of 2009;
- 90 e. Actively pursue animal cruelty investigations;

f. Create strong county partnerships with volunteers, fosters, rescue groups and stakeholders and the media;

B. A King County inter-branch animal services work group is hereby created with the purpose of reforming King County animal services.

1. Responsibilities: The King County inter-branch animal services work group shall develop the King County animal services strategic plan, operational master plan and facilities master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011;

2. Membership: The King County inter-branch animal services work group shall be co-chaired by the directors of the office of management and budget and county council policy staff, or their designees. The King County inter-branch animal services work group shall include the directors of the office of management and budget, county council policy staff, department of executive services, Seattle-King County department of public health, the King County sheriff and the King County prosecutor, or their designees.

3. Staff Liaison: The office of management and budget shall designate a staff liaison to the King County inter-branch animal services work group who shall be responsible, at a minimum, for assisting the work group in developing the strategic, operational and master plans, writing and producing drafts and the final strategic, operational and master plans, organizing the meetings, sending meeting agendas in advance of the

113 meeting to members, taking minutes of the minutes and distributing the
114 minutes to members.

115 C. The inter-branch animal services work group shall convene a community
116 stakeholder group to review and provide recommendations to the county executive and
117 council on the King County animal services strategic plan, operational master plan and
118 facilities master plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011. The community
119 stakeholder group's review shall be provided before the county executive transmits the
120 strategic plan, operational master plan and facilities master plan for the three-year period
121 2009 through 2011 to the county council for its review and possible adoption.

122 D. Strategic Plan: a King County animal services strategic plan for the three-year
123 period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County inter-branch animal
124 services work group. The plan shall be transmitted by the county executive to the county
125 council by ordinance on or before August 15, 2008. Annual updates to the strategic plan,
126 including annual performance measures shall be reported to council by motion by May
127 1. The strategic plan shall include the following components:

- 128 1. Regulatory and policy framework for regional and local provision of
129 animal services. And within local provision of services, what services
130 are mandated and discretionary;
- 131 2. Vision and mission statements;
- 132 3. Prioritized medium- and long-range goals;
- 133 4. Priority outcomes relative for each goal with a primary department
134 accountable to achieve each goal; and

- 135 5. Performance measures for each goal with a primary department
136 accountable for improvement of each performance measure.

137 E. Operational Master Plan: A King County animal services operational master
138 plan for the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County
139 inter-branch animal services work group. The plan shall be transmitted by the county
140 executive to the county council by ordinance on or before August 15, 2008. The
141 operational master plan shall be based on the strategic plan and shall include the
142 following components:

- 143 1. Organizational and financial evaluation of the strategic plan on how
144 regional and local animal services should be provided or contracted for
145 by King County;
- 146 2. Organizational and financial evaluation of the strategic plan on how
147 King County should provide or contract for animal services in King
148 County unincorporated areas and cities and towns;
- 149 3. Development of, at a minimum, the following organizational options
150 for how King County animal services strategic plan for the three-year
151 period 2009 through 2011 can be implemented:
- 152 a. Status quo option. King County continues to provide regional and
153 local unincorporated and incorporated animal services as currently
154 organized within the departments of public health and executive
155 services and the sheriff's office;
- 156 b. Reorganize animal services within county government.

157 c. Reorganize animal services in partnership with King County and
158 partners.

159 F. Facilities Master Plan: a King County animal services facilities master plan for
160 the three-year period 2009 through 2011 shall be developed by the King County inter-
161 branch animal services work group. The facilities master plan shall be transmitted to
162 council by the county executive by August 15, 2008 by ordinance. The facilities master
163 plan shall be based on the operational master plan and shall include the following
164 components:

- 165 1. An inventory of existing animal services capital facilities, showing the
166 locations and capacities of the facilities;
- 167 2. A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities;
168 the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities;
169 and
- 170 3. At least a six-year plan that will finance such capital facilities within
171 projected funding capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money
172 for such purposes,

173 G. Business Plans: The proposed 2009 business plans for the departments of
174 executive services, Seattle-King County department of public health and the King County
175 sheriff, shall be updated upon adoption of the animal services strategic plan and shall be
176 coordinated and integrated with the proposed 2009 King County budget.